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Council backs School St. Barn restoration

Council vote covers historical building's roof, structure; no interior improvements planned

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Correspondent

The Agawam City Council has approved the spending of \$447,502 for the restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation of the School Street Barn.

The expenditure will come from

munity Preservation Act fund.

There was no question from the council that the restoration is needed and wanted by the Agawam Historic Commission, the Agawam Historical Society and the CPA Committee.

But some members of the community, as well as Councilor

the historic line item in the Com- George Bitzas, expressed a desire tioning cannot be installed. to see the barn remain a barn, without any major developments to the interior of the barn.

Bitzas proposed an amendment to the resolution approving the CPA funding stipulating the barn can only have the upgrades needed to protect it from the elements, and plumbing, heating and air condi-

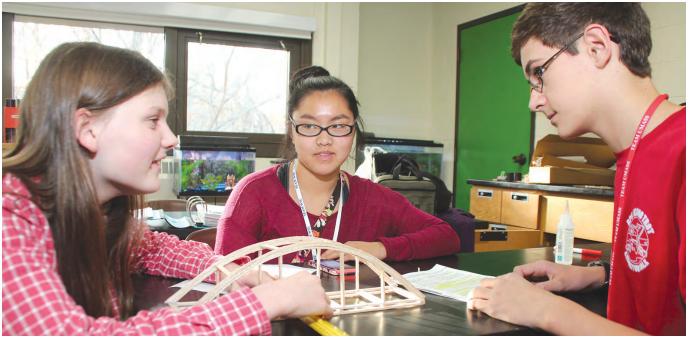
"I would like to see the barn remain a historic barn and there are many citizens who would like that, too," said Bitzas. "I am concerned if we approve this funding that the town will ask for more funding to develop it into something else."

The School Street Barn is part of the National Register of Histor-

ic Places, former City Councilor Robert Magovern said. The barn received that status two years ago. He and another former councilor, John Walsh, also advocated to keep the barn as it is.

"I do not want to see the barn become a place where they can have dances or weddings," said

Please see BARN, page 18



Turley Publications photo by Mike Lydick

AJHS students, from left, Diana Kulmizer, Maddie Lapierre and Kyle Reed work on a scale model arch bridge that will be used in an event in a statewide Science Olympiad competition this March. Students will compete in team events to determine which team built the strongest bridge.

Bridge to a career

Program at Agawam Junior High School connects teens to STEM

By Mike Lydick

Turley Publications Correspondent

utumn Jordan wants to cure cancer. Her interest in ending this deadly disease was sparked by a science program at Agawam Junior High School.

"We studied heredity and I learned that diseases like cancer can be passed down from generation to generation. I love science and I hope I can use it to cure cancer," said Jordan, 13.

The eighth grader is one of nearly 20 stu-

dents in an extracurricular science club that meets each afternoon during the school's enrichment period as well as after school

She's had a connection to science throughout her school years. "It's always been my best subject," she said. AJHS science teacher Sandra Johnson started the program several years ago to challenge students like Jordan who excel in science.

The club exposes Jordan and her classmates to a wide variety of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills.

They research and study topics that include entomology, anatomy, earth science, mechanical engineering, meteorology and astronomy to help them create robots, erect model bridges, launch bottle rockets and build wheeled vehicles.

23 different events

The club prepares students for a statewide Science Olympiad competition in March at Assumption College in Worcester. Teams of 15 students from schools around

See SCIENCE, page 18

CPA funding approved for athletic facilities

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Correspondent

Agawam High School's improved athletic facilities have taken another step forward after the City Council unanimously approved the spending of \$1,035,000 in Community Preservation Act funds despite a motion to table the measure.

Councilor Joseph Mineo said the Community Relations and Finance subcommittees, at a workshop meeting Nov. 10, voted 6-1 to ask the full council to table the spending.

"We felt the CPA approval may be premature," said Mineo.

Last month, the Agawam City Council approved the borrowing of \$6,750,000 to completely revamp the high school athletic facilities. The original request from Mayor Richard Cohen was \$7,750,000, but councilors lowered it through an amendment in anticipation of the CPA funds being available.

According to the CPA Administrator Jennifer Bonfiglio, the baseball field relocation to the rear of the school building and the new tennis courts are among the main eligible parts of the project.

Mineo said some members of the subcommittee felt the project has not even gone out to bid, and the funding approval should be tabled until bids come in.

Councilor Robert Rossi said he did not want to see the project slowed down, and noted the CPA Committee has already unan-

Please see ATHLETIC, page 18

Golf panel will include 3 councilors

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Correspondent

After much consideration of different options, the Agawam City Council has finally agreed on an approach to making recommendations for improvements to the Agawam Municipal Golf Course.

On Monday night, the council agreed to form a five-member subcommittee consistent with an amendment to the original resolution submitted by Council President Christopher Johnson.

The council considered several

alternatives, including proposals by Mayor Richard Cohen.

Approved unanimously by the council was a five-member adhoc subcommittee of the Agawam City Council with three members from the council, one member of the Golf Commission designated by the mayor, and the general manager of the golf course, Tony Roberto. The subcommittee will be charged with doing a review of the business practices of the golf course and submitting a plan of recommended improvements to Mayor Richard Cohen. Cohen is responsible for management of the

During the discussion, Councilor George Bitzas attempted to change the resolution to include a private citizen on the subcommittee. He proposed a formal amendment that reduced the city councilors from three to two, and added the private citizen.

"I have a citizen that is a business consultant and is willing to volunteer on the committee," said

Please see GOLF, page 8





Turley Publications photo by Michael J. Ballway

Tony Roberto, general manager of the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, in the clubhouse this week.



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Early deadlines for Thanksgiving week

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday next week, the Agawam Advertiser News asks readers and advertisers to be aware of early deadlines this week.

Press releases, submitted photos and community news must be received before 8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, to be considered for inclusion in the Nov. 28 edition of the Advertiser News. News may be sent to Teri Mascia at aan@turley.com. Mascia can be reached at 413-7867747, ext. 100. Editor Michael Ballway can be reached at 413-786-7747, ext. 102.

For businesses wishing to advertise in the Nov. 28 edition, the deadline to contact sales representative John Baskin is the end of the business day Friday, Nov. 21. Baskin can be reached at jbaskin@turley.com or 413-786-7747, ext. 101.

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Applications available for Colleen contest

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee is seeking applicants for the 2015 Colleen contest. Applications may be obtained at Agawam High School, the Agawam Public Library, Agawam Town Hall and Cooper's Commons and Gifts.

Applicants must be between the ages of 17 and 22, single with no children, a resident of Agawam or Feeding Hills, express interest in continuing education and must claim Irish

The Agawam Coronation will take place Feb. 8 at Chez Josef. The colleen and her court will promote a sense of spirit in the local Irish community through various community activities, which culminate in the annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply. The deadline for application is Dec. 31. Completed applications may be mailed to Agawam St. Patrick's Committee, P.O. Box 825, Agawam, MA 01001.

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Troop 82 honors four more Eagle Scouts

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Correspondent

Agawam Boy Scout Troop 82 is bucking the trend when it comes to Eagle Scouts.

Last Sunday afternoon at Agawam Congregational Church, Troop 82 honored four new Eagle Scouts, the most in a single Court of Honor in the troop's history. The troop also honored two in September, giving it six for the year.

"It's an amazing accomplishment," said Mark McLaughlin, an assistant scoutmaster. "We have had one or two scouts being honored in a single ceremony. But we have never had four of them. We are very proud."

Tristan Cote, Zachary Duquette, Ryan Riel and Philip Woods were the honorees of the Eagle Scout pins at the latest Court of Honor. Each recently completed an Eagle Scout service project, making a significant contribution to the community.

Mayor Richard Cohen said the town worked with each of the honorees to make their projects happen and was very proud to laud their accomplishments.

'We are very fortunate to have such an active troop that has produced so many Eagle Scouts recently," said Cohen. "Each one did a project that was a true benefit to the town of Agawam. It's an honor to work with such fine young men and help them obtain such a prestigious rank."

Cote did his Eagle Scout project throughout town, refurbishing more than 300 different American flag-holders.

'We did a hardware upgrade on the flagholders, replacing the current holders with carabiners," said Cote. "It was a really tough job to get to all of them."

Woods and Duquette both lead their scout patrols to different locations in town to refurbish park benches that were in disrepair. Woods completed 22 benches over the course of two months. The benches were scraped, sanded, and repainted. Duquette completed 13 parks benches throughout town at the American Legion, Housing for the Elderly, the Agawam Police Department, and Agawam Town Hall. Among the work was completely replacing

the lumber on the benches and finishing the new lumber.

Riel worked exclusively with the Parks and Recreation Department to create a disc golf course at School Street Park. The park has been expanded during the past few years to included soccer, baseball, and softball fields, as well as a full playground. The disc golf course adds an additional element to the

"It was something I had at my old school," said Riel. "I thought it was something our town would really enjoy. I did a lot of fundraising to get the equipment and then worked to create the course.

Parks and Recreation Director Christopher Sparks, who is also an Eagle Scout, said he was pleased to help the scouts reach their goal.

"I did work with three of the four Eagle Scouts," said Sparks. "They are a huge asset to the town and all their projects are appreciated. With the disc golf course, it's now possible we could run a league or tournament in the future."

Scoutmaster David Robinson says Troop 82 is very proud of what has been accomplished by the troop this year. He says there may be one more scout who gets his Eagle rank before the end of 2014.

"Less than 3 percent of scouts make it to Eagle," said Robinson. "We have six already just this year. They are a great group

Troop 82 has 56 Eagle Scouts in its history. Each new Eagle Scout received his Eagle Scout pin, several awards and commendations from local dignitaries and members of the Legislature.

Attaining the Eagle Scout rank is something each scout said he worked very hard for and wanted to attain.

"It's not an easy thing to do," said Duquette. "It's definitely worth it in the end. Every person I have ever talked to that did not make it wishes they had." Eagle Scouts must obtain 21 merit badges (12 specific badges are required, plus nine electives) and complete their Eagle Scout service project prior to their 18th birthday to attain the rank.



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

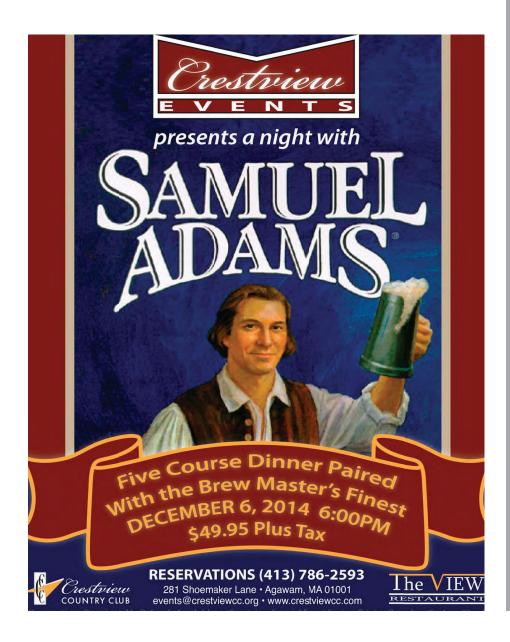
From left, Tristan Cote, Zachary Duquette, Ryan Riel and Phillip Woods hold their recently earned Eagle Scout pins at a ceremony in their honor held last Sunday afternoon at Agawam Congregational Church.



The Eagle Scouts take their formal oath for their new rank.

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Opinion

Now the real barn debate begins

Tow that the City Council has agreed to restore the School Street Barn, the real debate begins.

Voting to spend \$447,500 on the roof, foundation and structure seems to be a fairly easy call. The barn is on the National Register of Historic Places and has been an Agawam fixture for more than a century. It reminds us that agriculture once extended even into what are now the more built-up areas of town. Community Preservation Act money, which will fund the project, has to be used on some sort of historical, open space or housing project, so it's not as though the School Street Barn is taking up resources that could be used to hire police or school teachers, or reduce the tax rate.

The real question is what to do with the

One school of thought holds that it makes sense to get as much use as possible out of the barn — to turn it into a unique meeting facility that showcases a historical structure while providing Agawam families and organizations with an interesting place to hold public meetings, celebrations and other gatherings.

That would represent a large additional expense, however. The barn would need heat and air conditioning, plumbing and other interior construction. And every additional feature added to the barn would increase the annual cost of maintenance.

A town-owned banquet hall would also compete with local, privately owned halls and restaurants. While the School Street Barn would undoubtedly be a unique option, it would hardly be the only place to hold a function in Agawam. There are only so many weddings, corporate outings, holiday parties and club meetings in a given year. At some point, a taxpayer-funded barn would be taking business away from local businesses — who are taxpayers themselves.

The City Council should make sure it has done all the math — and proven the need before signing on for additional expenses.

On the other hand, what will Agawam get for its investment without modern ameni-

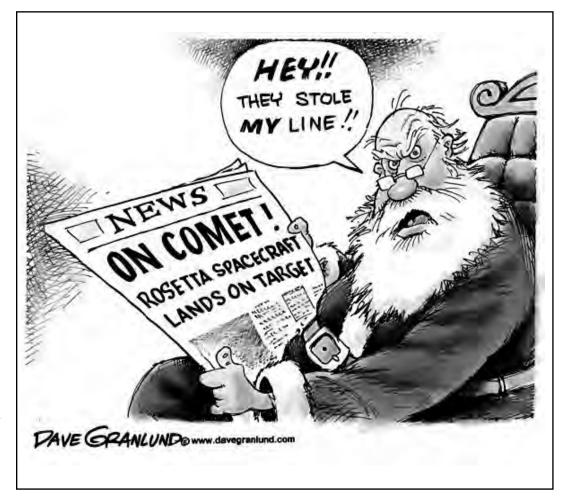
Without heat, air conditioning, plumbing and handicap accessibility, the barn is only useful as ... well, a barn. The Parks and Recreation Department will continue storing equipment there. Even if it is "just" CPA funds, \$447,500 is a lot to pay for an equipment shed.

Perhaps the best outcome lies somewhere in the middle. Handicap accessibility, plus limited electrical and plumbing service, would allow the town to open the barn for no-frills meetings in warm weather — say, indoor recreational programs in the summer, or historical talks in the spring and fall. Again, however, the town should look closely at whether there is a need for additional summertime program space, and spend ac-

One more reason for caution: Any changes that go beyond simple restoration, even if they are intended to allow more people to experience the historical barn, would necessarily take away from its historical character. Hundred-year-old barns aren't supposed to have air conditioning.

The School Street Barn is, in Town Planning Director Deborah Dachos' words, "a monument to Agawam's agricultural past." If that's all it ever will be, that's enough.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@ turley.com.



Letter to the Editor

Troop 77 has successful fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 77 had a successful fundraiser Friday, Nov 7. The troop is raising funds to go camping at Acadia National Park in Maine in the summer of 2015. This will be a fabulous trip for the Scouts. Acadia has many things to do and the Scouts hope to hike a few trails, go sea kayaking, take in a whale watch, and bike the many trails around the park.

The Scouts were able to raise money by having an auction. Many local businesses donated to make this event a success, including Knights of Columbus, Peppo's, State Line Games, Agawam Java Stop, Salon Tres Chic, BitterSweets, Goodies Convenience Store, Almost Edible Gourmet, Family Martial Arts Academy, Ferrentino's, Uncle Ray's Fishing, Yankee Mattress, Boston Bruins, Boston Red Sox, Westfield State University, Nicky's Pizza,

Main Street Deli, Over the Moon, Geissler's, In a Flash, Blandford Ski Area, Parthenon, Cooper's, UBU Hair Design, Prime-Line Marketing, and WR Young Inc. Many families also donated goods to the cause.

Highlights of the event included the signed Daniel Nava picture from the Boston Red Sox and the David Krejci signed puck from the Boston Bruins. There was also a 50/50 raffle, snack bar, and a raffle of Massachusetts State Lottery tickets.

The troop is in the planning stages for the trip. If your son needs a troop to join, please consider Troop 77. The troop is part of the Western Massachusetts Council of Boy Scouts of America, which serves over 6,600 young people and over 1,600 adult volunteers in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties of Western Massachusetts. Troop 77 meetings are held at St. John's Church in

Boy Scout Troop 77

'Keep coming'

FAITH

MATTERS

TOM HOWELLS INTERIM PASTOR AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ith the approaching holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas there will be opportunities to gather together as families, social groups and as the church. Coming together requires desire and intention. Some are eager to get together, others are anxious and some don't even want to be there. At my previous church we hosted an AA group

and had for about 40 years. I had the privilege of attending their anniversary meetings as a guest for 28 of those years. Several deacons and I would attend and were treated to a wonderful meal and meeting and two inspiring speakers

— who shared their journey to sobriety. I remember at one of the last meetings I attended hearing several times during the meeting, when recognizing those attending for the first time or those celebrating anniversaries of sobriety, the leader use the expression "keep coming." It is a wonderful invitation and encouragement to do the obvious. After all, the group is there to

support those who come on their journey. I thought about our faith communities and a passage from the book of Hebrews

(10:22-25) where the author issues a similar encouragement of "keep coming" in one of the several exhortations in the passage — all beginning with, "Let us." Initially, to God — draw near to God with a sincere heart. It is the desire to draw near to God that prompts us to gather together. Notice that the author uses the plural pronoun "us" in the exhortations, "Let us." Though the action is done by individuals, it is the collective experience that is emphasized. There will be discouragements along the way, so the author reminds us to hold on to the hope we profess. Our hope is in the Lord. Our lives are built on faith, not in self or circumstances, but in God. We read in Hebrews 11, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God."

With these two exhortations — to draw near to God and hold onto hope — the author exhorts us to three actions. We are asked to consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. In order to do that, we need to be together. We need each other. Sometimes you need to be the one spurred on and sometimes you need to be the "spur." There are plenty of opportunities to show love and do good. Expecting "the church" to do it without personal involvement doesn't make sense. Avoid the inclination to criticize and look for a way to do it yourself or spur someone else to do it. The next two actions are coupled together. "Let us not give up meeting together," but "Let us

encourage one another." Love and good deeds will not happen if Christians keep one another at a distance. We should enjoy the opportunity to gather together and enjoy mutual fellowship and encouragement. Whatever the excuse for not getting together, the author says, "Keep coming." It's good for you and the Christian community. Peace and love.



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AGAWAM

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Cinema donors kick in \$46K

By Michael J. Ballway Turley Publications Staff Writer

After reaching the \$40,000 target with five days to spare, "Save the Agawam Cinemas" continued to raise funds last week.

By the time the Kickstarter.com campaign ended just after 5 p.m. on Saturday, 277 donors had pledged \$45,126 online. The theater garnered an additional \$1,000 from a "Cut-athon" at Salon Tres Chic on Friday evening.

Theater owner Kimberly Wheeler said Kickstarter was able to process the payment on all but a handful of the pledges early this week. With roughly \$40,000 going toward the purchase of a digital projector, enabling the Southgate Plaza cinema to screen films in both auditoriums when it opens later this year, the remaining \$6,000 will be spent on improvements to the sound system.

"What's in there now is completely inadequate to the size of the auditoriums," Wheeler said this week. "They would have to be replaced, regardless ... this just allows us to do it now, instead of in the future. What's in there now are home theater speakers, for lack of a better phrase. These are going to be legitimate theater speakers."

She said she is also working with a consultant to improve the acoustics in the cinemas, to reduce reverberation.

Construction work on the theater is taking longer than expected, Wheeler said, and the target date for opening has been pushed back from this week to "as early in December as we can."

Wheeler said one of the contractors working on the exterior told her that on one day



Turley Publications photo by Michael J. Ballway "Save the Agawam Cinemas" ended its Kickstarter campaign with 110 percent of its goal funded.

this week, between 9 a.m. and noon, 60 people approached him asking about the theater.

She also thanked the staff and customers at Salon Tres Chic for their "amazing" support during the "Cut-athon." Stylists donated their time as the Walnut Street Extension salon stayed open and cut hair for \$20, with all proceeds, including the stylists' tips, supporting the cinema.

Agawam Cinemas, formerly a second-run theater, has been closed since May. Wheeler, an emergency medical technician and movie buff, plans to reopen it as a two-screen firstrun theater with lower ticket prices than nearby multiplexes.

Roll the credits

Donors to the Kickstarter campaign were given the opportunity to select rewards for their participation. Agawam Cinemas owner Kimberly Wheeler named the reward levels after job titles on a movie production, from "the camera crew" up to "the starring role." Donors at the \$15 level received acknowledgement on a banner in the theater's lobby. Higher levels of support added such rewards as concession stand vouchers, free admissions, theater rentals and a "backstage" tour. Two additional reward levels, named after films, were later added at \$300 and \$500 with business advertising rewards. Reward levels are listed below with the minimum pledge amount in parentheses and the number of donors who selected that re-

- "Camera Crew" (\$15): 18
- "Screen Writer" (\$25): 44
- "Script Manager" (\$50): 38
- "Costume Designer" (\$75): 8
- "Stunt Coordinator" (\$100): 105
- "Production Manager" (\$250): 21 "Office Space Special" (\$300): 4
- "Special Effects Supervisor" (\$300): 10 "The Secret of My Success Package"
- (\$500): 3 "Wardrobe Supervisor" (\$500): 3
- "Casting Director" (\$1,000): 2
- "Executive Producer" (\$1,500): 1
- "Director" (\$2,000): 2

"Starring Role" (\$5,000): 1

Agawam Clergy to host Thanksgiving eve service

The public is invited join the Agawam Clergy at the annual Community Thanksgiving Service to be held Thanksgiving eve, Wednesday, Nov. 26, at Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam. The service will be held at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, with various local clergy participating.

The Rev. Bill Pass, leader of the Agawam Clergy Association, will offer the greeting. The Rev. Tim Reed and the Rev. Richard Adams, pastors of Bethany Assembly of God, will host the service and offer the opening prayer and offering. Mayor Richard Cohen will read the Thanksgiving proclamation. Pastor George Thompson, of First Baptist Church, will offer a Thanksgiving prayer, Pastor Bob Olmstead of Lighthouse Christian Center will offer a sermon and the Rev. Robert Donaldson, of Feeding Hills Congregational Church, will also offer a sermon.

Fellowship time will follow the service in the gymnasium at Bethany Assembly of

The offering will go to the Phil Coburn Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner, which takes place at St. Thomas Church in West Springfield on Thursday, Nov. 27. Agawam residents can have dinners delivered by calling the Agawam Senior Center at 413-821-0604 or 413-821-0605. Everyone is invited to St. Thomas School. Meals are being served from noon to 2 p.m.

Participating churches include First Baptist Church, Lighthouse Christian Center, Feeding Hills Congregational Church, Bethany Assembly of God and Church of Redemption. The public is invited.

FINAL CUT



Turley Publications photos by Michael J. Ballway

Salon Tres Chic stylist Alexa Pszeniczny, of Southwick, cuts the hair of Alexis Scott of Agawam during the "Cinema Cut-athon" Friday evening, Nov. 14.



Stylist Maria Gensheimer of Agawam stands with Dan Dane of Wilbraham, manager of the cinema, after cutting two years' worth of hair, which Dane donated to Wigs for Kids.



Jessica Hill of Springfield cuts the hair of Rvan Ovler, 3, of Agawam, during the "Cinema Cut-athon."





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Deadline for photos & forms is Friday, Nov. 28th.



Schiors

'Stockings for Seniors' drive to benefit area residents

By adding one more stocking to their list of stockings to fill this holiday season, local citizens can provide needy seniors with joy and happiness. Stockings filled with goodies, gift cards and small necessities can be dropped off at the Atrium at Cardinal Drive senior living community located at 153 Cardinal Drive in Agawam anytime through Friday, Dec. 19, as part of its "Stockings for Seniors" drive.

The community's goal is to deliver 100 or more stockings to local Councils on Aging and Meals on Wheels programs, who in turn will deliver the stockings to needy seniors in our local communities. The Atrium will host a Holiday Mixer on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. to wrap up the drive. Last minute donations will be accepted through Dec. 19. Stocking donations will be received and representatives from local Councils on Aging will be in attendance.

Recommended value is around \$25 and recommended items to include in stockings would be local grocery store or pharmacy gift cards, eyeglass repair kits, lens cleaner/lens wipes, light-up magnifying glasses, flashlights, batteries, nightlights, nail clippers, nail file boards, pocket tissues,

toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand lotion, stationery/note cards, greeting card assortments, stamps, pot holders, candy, lottery tickets, sugar-free items for diabetics and Sudoku/ crossword/word search puzzle books. However, there is no minimum or maximum limit on monetary value or what can be included.

"The value's not a matter – what matters are the number of helping hands and the satisfaction of knowing that one has helped a senior in need this holiday season," said Elena Leon, senior director of community relations at the Atrium. "There are many programs in the area to help support children and families in need, but often our seniors who are frail with limited resources are forgotten. In some cases, the donated stocking may be the only holiday gift received."

The Atrium at Cardinal Drive offers specialized assisted living through the Harbor Program of care for those with Alzheimer's disease and other memory impairments. Benchmark operates 50 communities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Maine. Visit Benchmark at www.benchmarkseniorliving.com.

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, Nov. 24: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Tuesday, Nov. 25: 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting Class, Sewing Class; 10 a.m., Chair Exercise; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("Radio City Christmas Spectacular"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Chorus; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, Nov. 26: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble, Ballroom Lessons.

Thursday, Nov. 27: Thanksgiving. Se-

nior Center closed.

Friday, Nov. 28: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m., All Media Art; 9:30 a.m., Tai Chi; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Lunch menu

Monday, Nov. 24: Tuna casserole, spring salad, pears.

Tuesday, Nov. 25: Beef barley soup, chicken cutlet on a roll, lettuce and tomato, apricots.

Wednesday, Nov. 26: Roast pork stroganoff, mashed potatoes, roasted carrots, baked good.

Thursday, Nov. 27: Thanksgiving. Senior Center closed.

Friday, Nov. 28: Potato-crusted baked fish, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, pudding.

Senior Center craft fair Saturday

The Friends of the Agawam Senior Center will host a Holiday Craft Fair Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the senior center. Two floors of vendors will be there and Carol, the senior center chef, will prepare her ever-popular soup and meatballs. The public is invited.

Holly Wreath Bazaar at Agawam Congregational

The Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., will host its annual Holly Wreath Bazaar, Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9

The day's offerings will include the Nutmeg Bakery and Clothesline Boutique as was well as a book shop, attic treasures, a young people's table, raffles and outside vendors.

The Holly Wreath Café will be open for



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Jingle Valley Fair at First Baptist

The First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main St., will host its annual Jingle Valley Fair Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

In additions to candy, gifts, jewelry and holiday decorations, pies, bread, cookies, cakes and more will be available for purchase. The day's events will also include door prizes, treasure chest, fabrics and crafts supplies, and a tag sale.

A "Snowflake Luncheon" catered by Partners Restaurant will be available from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Food drive to benefit homeless pets

Dave's Soda and Pet City is teaming up with Dakin Humane Society, Feline Friends, Second Chance Animal Shelter and T.J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center to host a food drive to make sure that our shelter animals have the food they need this Thanksgiving season.

Dave's Furry Friends Food Drive will run through Nov. 25 at all seven of Dave's Soda and Pet City locations, including the one at 151 Springfield St., Agawam.

Drop boxes for donations will be available during store hours. Local shelters are in need of both wet and dry dog and cat food. Small animal food and other pet supplies will also

During the food drive anyone who purchases Dave's brand pet food as a donation will get 20 percent off the Dave's item they donate.

ARE YOU OLD NEWS?

Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.



Email your answers by Monday at noon to mballway@turley.com.



Last week's photo: Correctly identifying Ralph Zavarella were Donna Kennedy, Norma Turcotte and Lou Scherpa.

Tickets available for K of C celebration

The Agawam Knights of Columbus will celebrate the council's 50th anniversary Sunday, Nov. 23. A Mass and Installation of Officers will be held at 2 p.m. at St. John's Church in Agawam, followed by banquet at Casa di Lisa Restaurant in Feeding Hills. Cost for the banquet is \$20 per person. Social hour will begin at 4 p.m.

For more information or tickets, call Frank Mazzei at 413-

Tickets available for Elvis tribute show

St. John's Travelers is offering tickets to "Happy 80th Birthday Elvis" at the Hu Ke Lau, 705 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, on Sunday, Jan. 11, beginning at 11:45 a.m.

Tickets are \$48 per person for the luncheon and reserved seating for the "Blue Hawaiian Show." The menu will include salad, rolls and butter, prime rib of beef or baked scrod, potato, vegetable, dessert and coffee or tea.

For more information and tickets, call Emile Cote at 413-

TASTE FOR LEONARD HOUSE



Submitted photo

John McCarthy, left, proprietor of McCarthy's Liquors, and Phil Kimball, trustee from the Captain Charles Leonard House, post signs announcing the upcoming Thanksgiving Beer and Wine tasting event to be held at McCarthy's Agawam store, 430 Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 22, from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are available at the store for \$5. Proceeds will be donated to the Leonard House Maintenance and Preservation Fund. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Participants must be 21 years old to attend.

Humason announces job opening for legislative aide

BOSTON — State Sen. Don Humason, R-Westfield, has announced that there is a job opening in his State House office in Boston for one full-time legislative aide. The position is available immediately and offers salary and benefits. The range is \$32,000 to \$36,000.

"This person will be involved with legislation, constituent services, constituent outreach, research, scheduling, press, social media outreach and other duties as may be required," Humason said. "Preference will be given to any candidate who is from my district or very familiar with my district, for example, a graduate of Westfield State University, and who has experience as a legislative staffer."

Humason serves the 11 communities of Agawam, Southwick, Granville, Tolland, Russell, Montgomery, Southampton, Easthampton, Westfield, Holyoke, and Chicopee (wards 7, 8A and 9A).

The ideal candidate will have an interest in politics, civics, government and public service. They will be motivated self-starters who enjoy working in a professional, fast-paced, public setting. They will be friendly, outgoing and possess integrity and excellent people skills. They must be attentive to detail and have excellent follow-through skills.

The staff person will work with Humason's legislative director and student interns at the State House, along with the public and others.

Interested individuals should send your letter of interest and resume, a writing sample and a list of references to Chief of Staff Maura McCarthy, Office of Sen. Don Humason, 64 Noble St., Westfield, MA 01085

Christmas Concert at United Methodist

The Agawam United Methodist Church and Mrs. Thompson's Piano School will present a Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 2:30 p.m. The free concert of carols, sacred and popular Christmas music is open to the public.

The concert will feature piano selections by musicians ranging in age from early elementary school to adults. The Agawam UMC singers will provide choral and instrumental

The Agawam United Methodist Church is located at 459 Mill St. in Feeding Hills, across from Agawam High School. Call 413-786-5344 or email AgawamUMC@gmail.com for more information.

GIANNA AND



Gianna Goodrow was surprised one evening recently at the Parthenon Restaurant when her "longtime good buddy," Mayor Richard Cohen, stopped by to sit and chat with her. She was on her weekly night out with her grandfather. Gianna, 6, is the daughter of Craig and Diane Goodrow, of Agawam. Craig is the owner and operator of Looks Goody Mobile Auto Detailing in Agawam and West Springfield.

K of C to host 'Breakfast with Santa'

The Agawam Knights of Columbus will host "Breakfast with Santa" Sunday, Nov. 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. John's Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam.

Tickets for adults are \$7. Children under 10 are admitted free.

For more information, call Mike Pisano at 413-636-4593.

Community Newspaper

Retailers and small local businesses put the lion's share of their local advertising in newspapers. They know which media truly moves their products. Besides that, Google's research shows that half of online shoppers are more likely to buy products they've seen in the paper.





Tickets available for Resorts Casino trip

The Agawam Golden Agers, Chapter 2, will host a trip to the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, March 23 through March 25. This trip is open to the public. The cost is \$190 per person and includes deluxe motor coach, \$30 slot bets, \$10 food credit, two buffet coupons, a show and two nights stay at the casino.

The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. from Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills. For more information or reservations, call Art Usher 413-786-3567.



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Quantities are limited. Turley Publications reserves the right to end offer at any time. Payment will be returned if offer expires due to limited quantity being sold out or multiple names per letter. Sales are based on a first come first serve basis

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 66 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from Nov. 11 to Nov. 17.

On Nov. 11 at 1:31 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street, was dispatched and canceled en route.

On Nov. 11 at 6:54 p.m., the department responded to Pheasant Hill Drive for lockout.

On Nov. 11 at 8:14 p.m., the department responded to Pheasant Hill Drive for good intent call, other.

On Nov. 12 at 7:55 a.m., the department responded to Capua Lane for unauthorized burning.

On Nov. 12 at 7:57 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Nov. 12 at 11:09 a.m., the department responded to Lango Lane for road freight or transport vehicle fire.

On Nov. 12 at 12:15 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries. On Nov. 12 at 1:52 p.m., the department responded to Suf-

field Street for unauthorized burning. On Nov. 12 at 8:39 p.m., the department responded to

Wagon Wheel Drive for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Nov. 12 at 10:12 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 West for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Nov. 14 at 1:51 a.m., the department responded to Van Deene Street for cover assignment, standby, moveup.

On Nov. 15 at 4:01 p.m., the department responded to North Street for unauthorized burning.

On Nov. 17 at 4:46 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 Rotary for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

The Agawam Police Department responded to 333 calls for service from Nov. 10 to Nov. 17. The department made 5 arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Monday, Nov. 10

Raymond J. Aiken, 46, of 163 Bosworth St., W. Springfield, was arrested on charges of larceny of a motor vehicle, larceny over \$250, larceny from a building, and breaking and entering a building at nighttime for felony.

Tuesday, Nov. 11

Eric A. McCabe, 26, of 15 May St., Westfield, was ar-

rested on a default warrant for failure to pay fines.

Angel Casiano, 45, of 297 Bay St., Springfield, was arrested on charges of possession to distribute a Class A drug, possession to distribute a Class B drug, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, failure to signal, and failure to stop/yield.

Saturday, Nov. 15

James T. Longey, 46, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 5, Agawam,

Armand Joseph Lemieux, Jr., 44, of 21 Globe St., 1st Floor, W. Springfield, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

GOLF, from page 1

Bitzas. "I think his help would be valuable to the committee and the golf course."

His amendment was rebuffed by several councilors, including Johnson, Council Vice President Dennis Perry, and councilors Gina Letellier and Robert Rossi. Rossi said the subcommittee is for the council.

"I understand your intent," Rossi told Bitzas. "But this is a council undertaking. The council should make a determination about what should change at the course. I am not in favor of any outside influence."

Bitzas argued the golf course is publicly owned and public should be included in the process, especially someone who may be neutral toward the course.

Johnson said he appreciated the offer, but stood by his version of the five-member subcommittee.

"I worked on this version with Councilor (James) Cichetti with input from other councilors," said Johnson. "I think this is a really good compromise."

Councilor Paul Cavallo supported Bitzas' proposal.

"I see no harm with including a member of the public," said Cavallo.

Letellier argued against a citizen and simply wanted the review of the golf course to move forward so a solution can be reached.

"I agree with Councilor Rossi and Councilor Perry," said Letellier. "The mayor has had several months to look at this issue, and we have not gotten anywhere. I am not interested in a subcommittee that is appointed by the mayor."

was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear.

Bitzas, when making the amendment, proposed Johnson or the entire council could vote on the private citizen. That idea was also rebuffed by the council. Letellier added the member of the Golf Commission that would be part of the subcommittee is a citizen of the town.

Perry said the council has done enough to work with the mayor's office on establishing the committee.

"This is going to be a council committee," said Perry. "We have made a compromise with the mayor and I don't support having a citizen."

Bitzas was supported by Cavallo, Cichetti, and Councilor Joseph Mineo in his amendment, but was defeated 6-4.

Following the discussion, Letellier publicly stated she supported Perry being the chair of the subcommittee because of his background in business and management. The council members on the subcommittee will be announced at a future

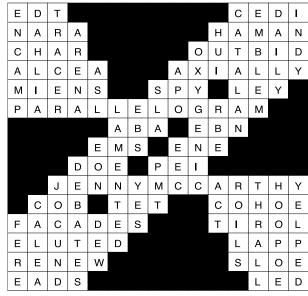
The original resolution was to investigate the business practices of the golf course, which has lost money in three of the past four years. The resolution was presented in August, then tabled in favor of having a workshop with the management of the course. After two meetings, one of them completely unsuccessful, the council compromised with Cohen to establish the subcommittee, eliminating the dark shadow of an investigation.

cation, covering Agawam and Feeding Hills, is seeking a freelance correspondent to cover municipal and school district meetings on a regular basis. Applicants should be familiar with town government and have good writing skills. A degree in communications, English or journalism is not required, but encouraged. The applicant should be available on nights. Position is paid per story. Please send cover letter, resume and writing samples to Editor Tim Kane at 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or tkane@turley.com. No phone calls or drop-ins please.



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JUNIOR WOMEN'S GUEST SPEAKER



Submitted photo

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club hosted Amy Mendrala (left), representing Lisa's Light of Hope, at the club's October meeting. Mendrala spoke about the dangers, warning signs and devastating effects of eating disorders, especially among teenagers. Pictured with her is Mary Cincotta, club corresponding secretary and meeting program chairperson.

Agawam garden club, florist to decorate at Yuletide

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Area garden clubs, florists and designers will donate their time, creativity and materials to adorn Storrowton Village Museum with all-natural decorations for Yuletide at Storrowton, the Village's free winter holiday festival, Saturday, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds of Eastern States Exposition.

Among the participating clubs and florists are the Agawam Garden Club and Floral Concepts by Tom, of Agawam.

During Yuletide at Storrowton, visitors can explore the Village on a self-guided tour and experience the old-fashioned holiday fun of storytelling, ice sculpting, musical performances and Early American craft demonstrations.

In addition to Yuletide, the work of these volunteers can also be seen during Storrowton's Open House Tours, Dec. 9 to 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Lantern Light Tours, Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission for Open House and Lantern Light tours is \$5; children under 6, free.

Storrowton Village Museum, an educational arm of Eastern States Exposition, presents hands-on school programs and guided tours of its historic buildings throughout the year as well as seasonal 19th century-themed events.

Stork Report...



Submitted photos

Gavin Francis Szenda
Michael and Maire (Svadeba) Szenda, of
Southwick, announce the birth of their
first child, Gavin Francis Szenda. Gavin
was born May 31, 2014, at 6:18 p.m. at
the Wesson Women and Infants Unit at
Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.
Grandparents are Debbie Szenda, of
Westfield, and John and Suzanne Svadeba, of Feeding Hills. Great-grandparents
are Carol Lerario, Joyce Svadeba, Grace
Phelps and Helen Szenda.



Audrey Lynn Beaudette
Nicholas and Suzanne (Svadeba) Beaudette, of Feeding Hills, announce the birth of their second child, Audrey Lynn Beaudette. Audrey Lynn was born Aug. 29, 2014, at 10:13 p.m. at the Wesson Womens and Infants Unit at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. She was welcomed home by her sister, Ella Marie Beaudette. Grandparents are John and Suzanne Svadeba and Gary Janet Shean, all of Feeding Hills. Great-grandparents are Carol Lerario, Joyce Svadeba and Jeanne Beaudette.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner open to area residents

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The West Springfield Parish Association and the West Springfield Rotary will host the 33rd annual Phil Coburn Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 27, from noon to 2 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church on Westfield Street.

Agawam residents wanting a meal delivered may call Christine at the senior center at 413-821-0605, ext. 2. To volunteer to deliver meals, call Mike or Debbie at 413-391-0407. Turkey donations are needed. To donate a turkey or a ham, call Barbara at 413-733-8682. Monetary donations are welcome and may be mailed to Carol Goulet, 40 Prince Ave., W. Springfield, MA 01089.

Volunteers will be cooking at the church, peeling vegetables and decorating the hall Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 9 a.m. and are in need of help. Anyone that is available is asked to call 413-733-8682.

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Strain Family

Girl Scouts 'Fill the Truck' to earn Bronze

Agawam Girl Scout Troop 11085 will hold a "Fill the Truck" event Sunday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the parking lot of Geissler's Supermarket, 830 Suffield St., Agawam.

The public is invited to bring non-perishable food or empty bottles and cans. All proceeds and donations will benefit the Open Pantry as the girls work toward their Bronze award.

Vendors, crafters sought for upcoming fair

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The Church of the Good Shepherd, located at 214 Elm St., is seeking vendors and crafters for its Shepherd's Fair to be held Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost is \$35. Those interested should call the church office at 413-734-1976. Leave a message and the call will be returned.



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Look Park Garden House – Gazebo, Pine Theater and Sanctuary for wedding receptions and ceremonies, meetings, banquets and events for up to 170 people. 300 North Main Street, Rt. 9, Florence, MA. 413-584-2220. www.lookpark.org.

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AHS Arts Festival to be held Dec. 2

The Agawam High Visual Art and Choral craft table and homemade delicacies. Department will hold its 12th annual Winter Arts Festival Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m. This is a combination of 15 art classes' work, which will include watercolor and acrylic paintings, ceramic pieces, charcoal drawings and sculptures. There will be a

The public is invited to enjoy the musical stylings from Chorale, Belle Tones, Turn up the Bass and Tonal Tenacity. Enjoy songs of water plus songs from the hit movie "Frozen." There will also be a basket raffle full of holiday goodies.

Residents named to St. Thomas honor roll **Toys for Tots**

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The following Agawam residents were among those to be named to the first quarter honor roll at St. Thomas the Apostle School.

First Honors — Grade 8: Jessica Fedor; Grade 7: Thomas Young; Grade 5: Nora

Second Honors — Grade 8: Alexandra Gonet; Grade 7, Nicholas Brady.

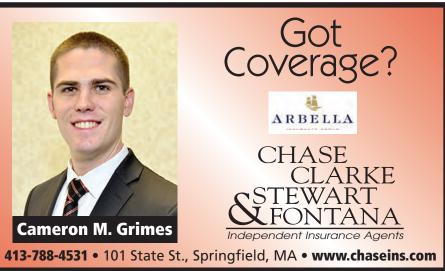
Third Honors — Grade 6: Elizabeth Gonet, Emily Larouche.

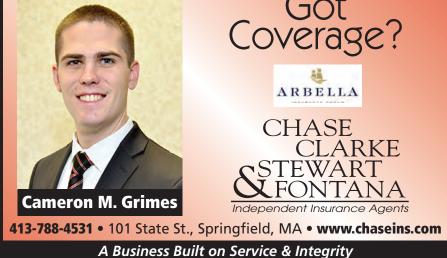
Town to support

Mayor Richard Cohen invites the public to join him in support of the Toys for Tots program, Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Agawam Town Hall.

Donations of unwrapped toys will be accepted on-site at that time. There will also be a Toys for Tots drop-off box at town hall in the lobby during working hours

decorations, a bake sale, candy booth and a jewelry booth.





St. John's to host holiday bazaar

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and old, as well as toys, bountiful baskets

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St. John's Holiday Bazaar will be held

Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at

the parish center, 833 Main St., Agawam.

The bazaar will feature Christmas wreaths,





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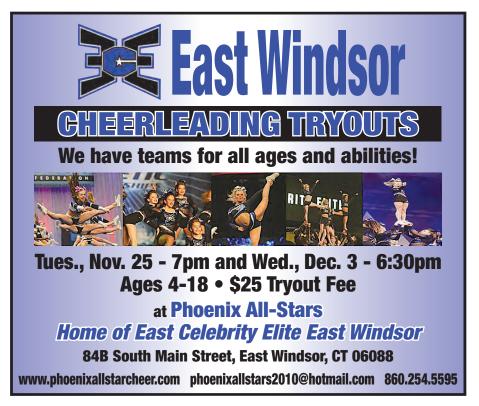
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Kids learn about fire safety



"Fire Chief" Jackson Bates very much enjoyed the fire safety presentation.

group of Agawam children recently gathered on Cooper Street for a fire safety program presented by the Agawam Fire Department. Firefighter Pam Murphy, along with Blaze the fire dog, put on a demonstration. They taught the children about stop, drop and roll, the importance of recognizing what a firefighter looks like in the event of an encounter during a fire rescue, and more. Children were encouraged to touch and feel the heavy gear and masks that firefighters wear when fighting fires. The children also enjoyed going into the fire engine to see how it looks inside.



Submitted photos

Dom and Toni Vassallo shared a seat in the fire truck.



Aidan Bower was very excited to get up close to Firefighter Pam Murphy as she demonstrated her fire gear.



A large group of children gathered for the fire safety demonstration.



David and Hailey Newsome are mesmerized by the fire gear demonstration.



P.J. Drewnowski enjoyed seeing the insides of the fire engine with Blaze.



Andrew Regnier encourages his little sister Abigail to touch and feel the gear.

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The Sisters of Providence Health System is pleased to welcome nineteen physician members, as well as physician assistants, nurse practitioners and staff members formerly with Hampden County Physician Associates (HCPA) to Mercy Medical Group, a multi-specialty group of physicians who practice throughout the Pioneer Valley. Plans are for these providers to continue practicing at the former HCPA Springfield, East Longmeadow, Feeding Hills and Ludlow locations (see list of providers and locations below).

Mercy Medical Group recognizes the importance of retaining established primary care physicians and remains committed to adding additional primary care physicians to improve access to clinical services in the local community. Despite HCPA's financial difficulties that resulted in its closure, this seamless transition is in the best interest of patient care because it allows patients of the former HCPA to continue to receive care without interruption. Patients will also benefit from enhanced patient care services through Mercy's continuum of care options.

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If you are a patient of a provider listed above, you will receive a letter at your home with additional details regarding the transition and information about obtaining your medical records. If you have further questions, please call your provider's office or our Coordinated Care Center at 413–748–7444.

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Warriors top Brownies in finals



Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

By Gregory A. Scibelli

DALTON - The Agawam football team traveled to Wahconah for a second straight year to battle for the Western Massachusetts Division 4 Championship.

But for the second straight year, Agawam was defeated, despite having a lead in this year's game, the Warriors came out on top 32-14 last Friday night.

It was all Agawam during the first half as their defense shut down the Wahconah attack. The Warriors won the toss and chose to receive the ball. They were able to score on their opening drive.

After a fast-moving drive on the ground, Warrior quarterback Nick Clayton went for a pass over the middle for about 18 yards. Ryan Washburn caught the ball around the 1-yard line and is momentum carried him into the end zone. Agawam had a defender on Washburn. It appeared the defender had stripped the ball, but the referees ruled Washburn crossed the plane, thus making the play dead and Wahconah scored the game's first touchdown.

Agawam was able to come back with a touchdown of their own, thanks to some impressive runs, ending with a short touchdown run by Gio Russo.

With the score tied 6-6, Wahconah tried to come right back with a score, but Agawam denied them, taking over

Agawam was able to press all the way to the 1-yard line, but Wahconah had a big stop on fourth and goal during the second quarter.

Pinned deep, Wahconah would have to put the ball back to Agawam, giving the Brownies great field position late in the second quarter.

Please see FOOTBALL, page 15

Above: Chris Dowd makes a tackle.

Right: Anthony Basile fields a kick off and takes off running.

Brownies, Terriers set to renew rivalry

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM - The Agawam and West Springfield football teams have a longtime tradition of playing some great Thanksgiving football.

After a few years of struggles, Agawam has had the upper hand in the past two years, winning an offensive slugfest two years ago 50-36, and winning a tight one last season in Agawam 19-18.

This year, the team teams will do battle at Clark Field in West Please see BROWNIES, page 16

Springfield on Thanksgiving at 10 a.m. According to Agawam High School coach John Benjamin, the game is all about pride with nothing more on the line for either

"It does not take much for me to get the players motivated for this game," said Benjamin. "This game is very important to all of them. It is the final career game for all of our seniors. And the underclassmen want to play well for them."

Agawam and West Springfield have one of the longest Thanksgiving Day rivalries in Western

Agawam falls in semis to West Side

By Gregory A. Scibelli *Turley Publications* Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - The Agawam boys soccer team headed in the Western Massachusetts Division 1 Tournament looking to work from the ground up as they upset Minnechaug, the second-seeded team in the tournament.

They were able to score a 4-0 statement-making win, but ran into a juggernaut in third-seeded West Springfield as they headed their way to a 3-0 win over Agawam and ended the Brownies'

West Springfield got on the board about 12:00 into the game back and forth in front of the Agawam goal. Agawam got a couple of touches on the ball trying to clear it out, by in the end, Mike Orlando got the final touch on the ball, sending it in the opposite direction of goalie Alex Sours for the 1-0 West Springfield lead.

Shortly after the goal scored, Agawam tried to go on the attack, with Brodie Keene moving the ball all the way to the end line and crossing over. Unfortunately, no one was able to meet the ball.

Agawam's next chance came several minutes later, as Cam Rivest and Anthony Sciartelli were in the middle of the box when a long throw-in was made. Both players tried to get a head on the ball, but West Springfield cleared

In the second half, Agawam continued to try and move the ball up with several different run combinations, but the Terriers defense did an excellent job keeping Agawam from getting too depth with

Luis Nieves did have one chance, but a slide block broke up the scoring opportunity.

Agawam got a corner kick with 29:00 remaining in the second half, and a second kick into the box resulted in a collision between and Agawam player and West Springfield goalie Dan Letendre. Letendre was down briefly, allowing Agawam a chance to shoot on an open net and tie the score.

Pee Wees triumph in Super Bowl

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - It was another banner season for the Agawam Pee Wee football team in the Suburban Amateur Football League this sea-

The Pee Wee Warriors were the big winners of the SAFL's Suburban Conference, winning the Super Bowl on Sunday, Nov. 2 against their rivals West Springfield at Central High School, 12-6.

Agawam had a great regular season, going 7-1 in their first eight contests. They moved through their entire division, making defense their biggest priority as they

shut a number of teams out. After picking a victory against the other seven teams in their league, they faced off against West Springfield one more time on Oct. 18.

In a tough contest at Clark Field, West Springfield got the extra twopoint conversion when they needed it and they edged out Agawam 14-12, handing them their first loss of the season.

The Warriors would go on to the semifinals and faced East Longmeadow, picking up a second victory against them this season with a 14-0 score, setting up the Super Bowl meeting with West Springfield, a matchup that ended up being a rubber match between the two teams.

Please see PEE WEE, page 16



Agawam's Nick Malerga (13) makes a run up the sideline.



Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com Agawam's Brodie Kenne (2) sends the ball up the field.

FOOTBALL, from page 14

Russo would make a 20-yard touchdown run to the right side. A pass to the far left corner to Jim Karl-Morin for a conversion would make it 14-6 Agawam at halftime.

But Wahconah, the sectional champion for the past two years, put it together in the second half, scoring 26 unanswered points. They broke through for a touchdown early in the third quarter, scoring with 7:56 left in the third quarter to bring the score to 14-12 Agawam.

Agawam would go three and out and a great punt by Sean Moore pinned Wahconah at their own 5-yard line.

The Brownies had Wahconah in a fourth down and five situation and Clayton made a perfect screen pass to Quinn Caesar for a touchdown, giving Wahconah a 18-14 lead.

Agawam would be unable to score on their next possession, and Wahconah kept taking possession of the ball, taking advantage of a couple of punts and three Agawam turnovers in the second half.

'Those turnovers did not help us during the second half," said coach John Benjamin. "Wahconah has a great team and there is a reason why they have won the championship."

Benjamin also said some missed chances in the first half to put more points in the board also hurt Agawam, including a missed field goal.

Agawam quarterback Troy Gallerani went 5-for-15 for 94 yards. Jason Carleton had three receptions for 60 yards.

On the ground, Russo led the team with 111 yards on 17 carries and two touchdowns. Anthony Basile had 31 yards on six carries. Max Molta had 23 yards on two carries.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



Sean Moore attempts his first-ever field goal for the Brownies. Troy Gallerani is the holder.



Anthony Basile takes off for a run to the left side.



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Marcus Headly makes a carry for Agawam.

SEMIS, from page 14

But two West Springfield defenders blocked the shot with their bodies to preserve the shutout. Letendre had enough time to recover and the Terriers cleared the ball.

With about 25:00 left, a long throw-in by Brendan Stenwick was headed in by Orlando to make it 2-0 West Springfield. With about 15:00 remaining, Orlando made the long throw-in right at the goal. The ball was met by Jared Davis, who redirected the ball off the back of his head into the goal.

Sours made 10 saves in the loss. Agawam's season ends at 11-8-1. West Springfield moved on to the Western Mass. finals to take on Amherst Regional.



Right: Agawam's Kris Page (14) looks down at the ball as he runs up on it.

Left: Agawam's Tyler Wojcik (19) tries to track down a loose ball.





Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com Agawam's Luis Nieves (21) looks to send the ball up the field.





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Monahan helps lead Lady Owls

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - The Westfield State University women's cross country team had an excellent season, with two former Agawam High School students anchoring their group this season.

Two weeks ago, Ashley Monahan, a standout cross country and track competitor at the high school, finished fourth in the conference meet for the MASCAC Cross Country championship.

Monahan had a 3K time of 20 minutes, 42.05 seconds. She was the second player from Westfield to finish in the top five and contributed to Westfield's top score to win the meet as a team.

Monahan, who competed for Agawam from 2009-2012, said she is really enjoying stepping up the competition level in college.

"In high school, there was more emphasis on individual performances," said Monahan. "There is a lot more of a team atmosphere in college and your teammates coming across in fifth and sixth place all matter when it comes to your team winning a meet."

Meets were held once a week and Monahan was consistently among the top competitors for Westfield. Joining her is Westfield senior Samantha Hurley, of Agawam. Hurley finished 10th overall with a time of 21:07.

Monahan moved on with her team and

AHS alumni soccer game scheduled

AGAWAM — Any former Agawam High School boys soccer team player that is interested in playing in an alumni game Saturday, Nov. 29, is asked to call Walt Willard at 413-786-7924 or 413-896-2236.

BROWNIES, from page 14

Massachusetts along with Holyoke-Chicopee and Westfield-Cathedral.

The two teams enter the final game of the season with their playoff situations settled. West Springfield did not qualify for the tournament this season, with three straight losses at the end of the regular season spelling the end for the Terriers.

West Springfield would win their two games scheduled for non-qualifying playoff teams against Amherst and Ludlow. West Springfield is 6-4.

Agawam is fresh off a Western Massachusetts Division 4 championship run. Agawam has played games that count up until last week, when they were defeated in the championship game against Wahconah.

Agawam has a 7-3 record following the Wahconah loss, going 6-2 in the regular season and compiling a 5-1 Suburban Confercompeted in the Division 3 Championship. Both big meets were held at Mount Greylock High School, which is the home course for Williams College in Williamstown.

"It's a very difficult course with a lot of hills to run," said Monahan. "Lucky for me I really like hilly courses and I did well with

Monahan said the pressure is much more increased than high school races, and there are many more competitors.

When you are running in the top five or six runners, they are all running a lot closer than they were in high school. The times finish really close to one another and the pressure is always on.

The MASCAC will give Monahan and Hurley both All-Conference honors following the end of the season. The Owls won the cross country title for the 11th straight year.

Monahan said the Division 3 meet was a 6K race, testing her mettle and endurance on an even more difficult course at Mount Greylock.

"I really wanted to be the second finisher for Westfield at the D3 race," said Monahan. "The 6K was much more difficult, and it was really cold last Saturday."

Monahan says she wants to continue to be among the top runners at Westfield during the next two years and work toward winning races. She is currently majoring in Sports Medicine and is really enjoying school.

Agawam Youth Wrestling season begins Dec. 1

AGAWAM - The Agawam Youth Wrestling Season begins on Monday, Dec. 1.

If you have not signed up but still wish to participate, it is not too late. Register by contacting Bob Schwein at 413-222-6548 or rpschwein@comcast.net.

ence record. The Brownies beat Chicopee Comp in the final game of the regular season to capture the title.

"Our team has a lot to be pleased with this season," said Benjamin.

Benjamin is in his first year as head coach of the Brownies. He played for Agawam in high school and also was an assistant coach in the past. He says being head coach for his first Thanksgiving game is a dream come true for him.

"Both years I played, we lost to West Side," said Benjamin. "So there is that part of me that really wants a win here."

There is not too much to the preparation between the two teams for Agawam. Benjamin says the focus has been on the playoffs for the last three weeks, so they have little scouting on the Terriers for this year.

"They have some very talented players on their team," said Benjamin. "It is definitely going to be a challenge for us."

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COLLEGE NOTES

Ripke named to All-Little East Field Hockey team

NORTH DARTMOUTH - Junior Megan Ripke, of Feeding Hills, has been named to the Little East Conference in a vote by the league's 12 head coaches recently as announced by conference publicist Megan Erbes.

Ripke was tabbed with third-team lau-

Ripke, who makes her first appearance on the Little East team at back, was a leader on the defensive side of the field, ending the campaign among the conference leaders with 10 defensive

saves. With the eighth highest sum in the NCAA Division III, she was one off a school record held by former standout Lauren Daley (2010).

Entering the 2015 season, Ripke will be just four shy of setting the all-time mark of 20 held by Daley.

Rieker tallies for Elms

BEVERLY - Elms men's soccer senior Connor Rieker scored the lone goal for the Blazers in a 5-1 loss to Endicott in the ECAC Division III New England quarterfinals on Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Eleven Mutiny standouts bound for glory in the NCAA, ECAC and NJCAA Tournaments

AGAWAM - The regular season has concluded for collegiate soccer players around the nation, and a bevy of New England Mutiny players are bound for glory in the post-season. Eleven players from this past summer's team will compete in the NCAA, ECAC and NJCAA Tournaments while one former Mutiny star found historic success overseas in the UEFA Women's Champions League.

Jenna Fisher, McKenzie Hollenbaugh, Lauren MacLellan and their Boston University teammates won the Patriot League title with a 2-1 win over Colgate (and assistant coach and Mutiny vet Karen Gurnon).

Tori Sousa and her Central Connecticut State University team won the NEC Championship after defeating Fairleigh Dickinson by a 2-0 score. The Blue Devils will travel to Boston to face the Harvard Crimson in the NCAA D1 Tournament First Round on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Soldiers Field Soccer Stadium. The match will air live on ESPN3. com. Sousa - CCSU's leading scorer - was named NEC Player of the Year this season.

Julie Hubbard, Andrea Plucenik, Gianna Roma, Allison Saucier and the University of Connecticut have returned to the NCAA D1 Tournament after they captured the American Athletic Conference Championship by defeating South Florida in penalty kicks (3-2) after a 0-0 draw. Saucier was named to the AAC All-Tournament Team for her strong display in goal for the Huskies.

Morgan Andrews and No. 11-nationally ranked University of Notre Dame were tripped up in the Atlantic Coast Conference Championship semifinals by Florida State but their resume was strong enough to gain an at-large berth into NCAA's.

Leading scorer Andrews was named Second Team All-ACC for the second consecutive season for the Fighting Irish.

Sarah Brochu and her Southern Connecticut State University teammates rebounded from a 1-3 start to their season to gain a berth into the ECAC D2 Championship Tournament. Brochu was named the Northeast-10 Conference Defensive Player of the Year for her shutdown play this season.

PEE WEE, from page 14

Agawam's season ends overall with a record of 9-1, but the most impressive statistic shown on the standings is the "points against" area. Agawam only allowed 42 points to be scored on their defense the en-

That was the best defensive effort in the conference. The Warriors amassed 174 points against their opponents. Only West Springfield (204) points did better, though they did not get the points when it counted in the Super Bowl.

Eric Gillis, one of the coaches on the team, said the Super Bowl game did come down to the wire, but Agawam never trailed in the game.

"They (West Springfield) had a chance to score near the end of the game," said Gillis. "But we made the stop and got the ball back

Gillis said some defensive adjustments were the key to defeating West Springfield in the third meeting of the year between the

"They had a receiver that was really good," said Gillis. "We made some adjustments to make sure he was covered."

Gillis said both teams were challenged by the cold temperatures that day.

"These are first or second year players," said Gillis. "They are not used to dealing with a cold ball. It can hurt the passing game sometimes. But thankfully, we had a balanced attack all season. We did not rely on the pass all year."

Agawam had an excellent quarterback this year in Noah Jodoin, who could pass the ball as well as he could navigate the running

"What was great about this team was we had a lot of players who were able to contribute each game," said Gillis. "That's what these kids need at this level. They need to get a lot of reps and learn this game."

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP Church School 10:15 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Infant and child care provided. Handicap accessible.

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760 Main St., Agawam Agawambc@localnet.com www.firstbaptistagawam.org

SUNDAY SERVICES Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (grades K - 5) following Children's Message until 10:45 Youth Study time (grades 6+) following sermon until 10:45 Coffee & Conversation following worship every Sunday

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

152 South Westfield St. Feeding Hills 789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES

Men's & Women's Bible Study Groups and Children's Sunday School Worship Service at 10 a.m. Children's Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service. Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the service.

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH

522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills Feeding Hills, MA 478-9484 David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Familly Bible Study Hour, 9:45

Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m. Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills (413) 786-8200 www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org Fr. Steven Amo

WEEKLY SERVICES

Lord's Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m. Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. 786-6133 saintdavids@comcast.net. www.stdavidsagawam.org.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

823 Main St., Agawam 786-8105 info@stjohnevangelistchurch.org.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturdays: 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to Labor Day) Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., Latin Mass 12:30 p.m. Reconciliation: Fridays, 7:15 to 8 a.m., Saturdays, 4 to 4:45 p.m. Weekdays: Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8

Thursday: Communion Service



DEATH NOTICES & SERVICES

Bousquet, Esther Died Nov. 14, 2014 Funeral Nov. 19, 2014 Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Brown, James K. Died Nov. 11, 2014 Funeral Nov. 17, 2014 Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Siriani, Paulette Died Nov. 7, 2014 Private Memorial Service Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home Agawam

Slawski, Karl Died Nov. 12, 2014 **Private Services** Colonial Forastiere Funeral & Cremation Agawam

Upcoming events at Hope Community Church

Hope Community Church, 152 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills, has announced the following upcoming events.

Friday, Nov. 21: Junior Youth Group for children in grades 3 through 6.

Sunday, Nov. 23: 11:30 a.m., After the service, a presentation during discussion time by the Freemans on their ministry, "Between Bridges."

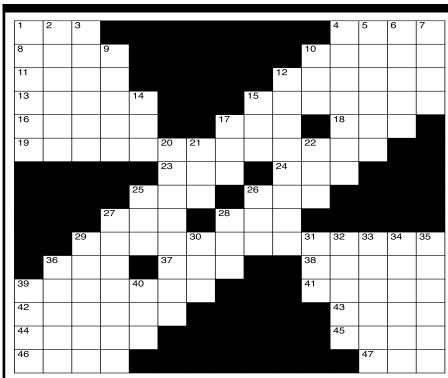
Wednesday, Dec. 3: 6:30 p.m., Women's Advent Service

Wednesday, Dec. 31: 11 p.m., Christmas Eve service

The small groups and Sunday school classes begun. For more information on all events and services, visit hopechurchagawam.

A Prayer To The Holy Spirit Holy Spirit, You who made me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and you who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank you for everything, and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for vour love towards me and my loved ones. Persons must pray the prayer three consecutive days without asking your wish. After the third day, your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Then promise to publish this dialogue as this favor is granted. I will never stop trusting in God and His power.





CLUES ACROSS 1. Sun up in New

- York 4. Ghana monetary
- unit 8. Japan's 1st
- 10. The evil Agagite

capital

- 11. Burn the surface 12. Win the
- auction 13. Hollyhock genus
- 15. With respect to an axis 16. Comportments
- 17. Secret agent 18. Pastureland
- 19. Square, rectangle or
- rhombus 23. Arab outer garment
- 24. East by north

- 25. Ambulance initials
- 26. East northeast
- 27. A buck's mate 28. I.M. architect
- 29. Anti-vaccine actress activist 36. Adult male
- swan 37. Vietnamese offensive 38. Silver salmon
- 39. Building fronts 41. W. Austrian province
- 42. Washed with a solvent
- 43. Nomadic Sami people
- 44. Restore
- 45. Allegheny plum 46. US bridge engineer James
- 47. Showed the

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Settle in tents 2. Tuberous Mexican
- flowers 3. Bullets that
- leave a trail 4. Language of
- Andora 5. Distinctive badge
- 6. Issued each day 7. __ 500, car race
- 9. Special event venue
- 10. A Chinese Moslem 12. Relating to
- atomic #8 14. Signing
- 15. Military mailbox
- 17. Patti Hearst's captors
- 20. Kvetched 21. East by south

- Rainbow effect (abbr.) 25. Long time
- 26. Treaty of Rome creation 27. Deliberates
- 28. Payment (abbr.) 29. Merry temperament
- 30. Affirmative 31. Public presentation
- 32. Stirs up sediment
- 33. One in bondage 34. Family Upupidae bird
- 35. Made barking sounds 36. 1994 US
- wiretapping law 39. A companion
- (archaic) 40. Morning
- moisture

Answers on page 8

SCIENCE, from page 1

the state compete in 23 different events.

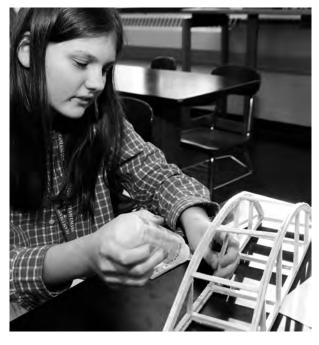
Preparing for the competition is the primary purpose of the club, but it's also helping to fuel their excitement for science.

Honesty Osbourne's "deep passion" for science began in third grade when she looked at an amoeba under a microscope. "That's when I discovered what science is all about. I was fascinated. I could only see the amoeba using a microscope."

Osbourne said the club gives her more time to learn and explore science. "This is right up my alley," said the eighth grader. "When I learned about it, something just clicked. I knew this was for me."

The 13-year-old is hooked on science and her college plans include getting a master's degree in chemistry or biology. "I don't know what kind of career I want, but it will be something that I do well in and that I love doing."

Johnson said the club is not only an ongoing learning process for students but also for her and Dan Murphy, her coadvisor to the program. "Each year we tweak our coaching skills to better prepare students for the competition."



Diana Kulmizer constructs a scale model arch bridge during the afterschool session for the extracurricular AJHS Science Olympiad Club. Building a scale model bridge has given the 8th grader a new perspective about the strength of real bridges.

<u>Legal Notices</u>

Commonwealth of Massachusetts **The Trial Court Probate and Family Court** Hampden Division **50 State Street** Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD14P2252EA Estate of: **Redwing Cleveland** Also Known As: Dorothy **Byrnes and Dorothy Longo** Date of Death: October 12, 2014 INFORMAL PROBATE **PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Sarah Anne Jette** of Agawam MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Sarah Anne Jette of Agawam MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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11/20/14

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley. com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

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Stipend helps fund program

The club was recently designated an extracurricular activity by the School Committee, enabling the co-advisors to share a stipend. Johnson and Murphy will use the money to help fund the club. Johnson said their stipend will go toward purchasing supplies and materials students need for the competition's different events.

"Kits range from \$20 to \$120," said Johnson. "We can't afford to buy the kits, so we make our own. Last year, I found a great deal on balsa wood used for building bridges."

Building a scale model bridge has given Diana Kulmizer, 14, a new perspective on bridges. "I thought a truss bridge was the strongest bridge design when I built one last year in tech ed. Now, after building an arch bridge for the past two months, I think it's the strongest."

The eighth grader's bridge theory will be tested during the competition. A five-pound bucket of sand will be attached to the bottom of each team's bridge to test its strength. More sand will be added to the bucket until the weight causes the bridge to fail and collapse.

Always more to learn

While the club has made Kulmizer more knowledgeable about bridges, she doesn't want to make that her career. Instead, she plans to go to Yale, get a doctorate in science to become a medical scientist.

Kulmizer has always loved science — it's one of her favorite subjects. "What makes science so appealing is that there's always a bigger picture — and always more to learn," she added.

She said the club covers a variety of science topics. "I can't wait until we get to the crime busters section to learn about fingerprints. We can't study that in regular science classes."

Johnson said while her students do well in the competition, it's hard to compete against schools that have one coach for every event. "We would really like to get some community volunteers who have experience working in a STEM field," she said.

Alexandra Humphries, 13, looks forward to the enrichment period throughout the day so she can work on projects for the Science Olympiad. "I'm always thinking about my



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

Autumn Jordan, left, and Heather Osbourne glue frame parts for a wheeled vehicle they are building in the AJHS Science Olympiad Club. It prepares students to compete in a statewide competition in March.

projects and strategizing about how I can make them better," said the 8th grader who one day wants to teach elementary science

Justin Salva, 13, finds science "fascinating." And he's thrilled to be studying entomology. "Insects are fascinating creatures. I've even discovered some I didn't know existed."

His eighth grade classmate and study partner, Veronica Bobskill, 13, shares Salva's interest in entomology. "I love bugs. If find a spider in the house, I'll take it outside. That's how much I like insects."

Both plan to pursue biology careers — perhaps in a marine environment — so they can continue exploring science well beyond AJHS.

BARN, from page 1

Magovern.

CPA Committee member Richard Bennett reminded the city council during the public comment portion of the meeting the proposal is simply for restoration and preservation of the building, and any proposals for use have been taken off the table.

CPA Administrator Jennifer Bonfiglio said if anyone came forward seeking the further improvement of the barn, such as heating and air conditioning and plumbing, there would need to be significant improvements required for a certificate of occupancy. Those improvements include making accommodations to make the building Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.

Bonfigilio confirmed CPA funds could be used for ADA compliance, but other improvements may not qualify for the funding, especially if it is not being used as a museum.

Councilor Christopher Johnson says the town is obligated to follow the conditions of their application. Councilor Joseph Mineo reminded Bitzas any further improvements to the barn would need to come back in front of the City Council for approval.

Councilor Paul Cavallo said he supports Bitzas' position, but does not believe a restriction is necessary. He did go on record saying he would vote against any further improvements to the barn.

Mineo noted the expense was approved by the Finance Subcommittee of the council, and said its use is as an equipment shelter for School Street Park.

Currently, the barn is in significant disrepair.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Historic Planner Elizabeth Rairigh pointed out microbursts (smaller tornadoes) have occurred within a short distance of the barn site. "The barn is very fragile and the roof has outlived its useful life," said Rairigh. "It has structural deficiencies and rotted pieces. It would be a shame if it was blown down."

According to a memorandum by Director of Planning and Community Development Deborah Dachos, the funds will be used to repair the roof and fix rotted areas and make the building structurally sound and prevent further deterioration. Dachos had proposed by the barn may be used as a public meeting space, but those plans have since been suspended.

CPA, from page 1

imously approved spending the funds on the project.

"We knocked off \$1 million from the borrowing because we anticipated receiving this funding," said Rossi. "I don't see a reason to table this. The wheels are already in motion and I do not want to see them stop."

Mineo said the subcommittee was told the town wants to break ground on the project sometime in the spring. Athletic Director David Stratton says he is prepared to make adjustment to the athletic programs if and when his teams are forced off their normal home fields.

Councilor Gina Letellier said she was the one who promoted the \$1 million cut. It was approved, and the CPA made their approval.

"There is no other reasons to delay this vote," said Letellier.

Councilor Paul Cavallo thanked the subcommittee and the CPA Committee for their hard work on the project and funding formulas to get ready for the council's approval.

"The committee has worked very hard on this," said Cavallo, a former principal of Agawam High School. "I do not want to see this tabled. We have not had a sanctioned track in

years. The kids have to go to Suffield Academy sometimes and I think that is horrible considering the quality athletic programs we have at the high school."

A picture was worth 1,000 words as Stratton also provided the City Council with photographs of the current condition of the tennis courts, which would be improved specifically with CPA funding.

The current courts have numerous cracks in the surface. Agawam still hosts home matches on the courts.

"The use of CPA funds to replace the existing tennis courts at the high school will make an enormous impact on the recreational space in Agawam," said Stratton. "The courts are used by the public, the athletic department, and our physical education department. The present condition of the tennis and basketball courts is poor."

The town will hear sometime in January if the improvements to the high school locker rooms will be eligible for Massachusetts School Building Authority funds, which could lower the amount borrowed by the town to complete the facility improvements.

If the portions of the project eligible for CPA funds come in under projections, the funds would have to be returned to the CPA

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Deadlines:

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275

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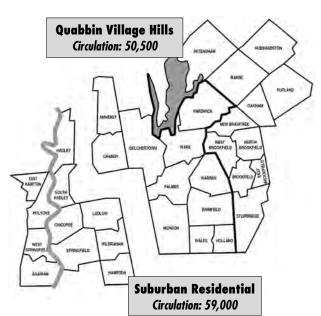


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In the Classroom

Young explorers embarking on weekly 'art-ventures'

By Mike Lydick

Turley Publications Correspondent

Each Wednesday afternoon a group of children embark upon a journey through the Arctic and Antarctic regions to learn about the fascinating lives of penguins, polar bears, and other cold-weather animals.

This special 70-minute journey begins in a classroom at Granger Elementary School. Using imagination, creativity, and art, 15 children become explorers as they discover life in and around the icy waters of the earth's poles.

An instructor with Adventures with Art, a Longmeadow-based company that provides afterschool art programs in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, guides students through their weekly journeys. The program is based on a curriculum developed by an art entertainment company called Let's Gogh Art.

Randi Steiger and her daughter, Tara Kilroy, run Adventures with Art. They bought the licensing rights to the Let's Gogh Art curriculum five years ago. Steiger manages the business while her daughter serves as one of several instructors.

The company offers a variety of art experiences within several different themes, such as "Art-ventures in the Rainforest," "Around the World Creativity Tour," or "Superheroes: Saving Planet Earth."

The eight-week program, "Art-ventures with Penguins and Polar Bears," is designed for kindergarten to grade four students. It costs \$98 per child. This is the third year the program has been offered at Granger. The first session began Nov. 5 and ends Jan. 14. A second eight-week session starts April 1.

During one recent session, instructor Clarke Kennedy guided students in drawing a fish. Once their drawings were done, they colored in the penciled drawings using various acrylic paints.

Creative art projects

Ella Mickiewicz, 8, began by painting her fish gray. She then added purple and red to make it look more ferocious. Blue and turquoise colors surrounded the fish, signifying the ocean.

She likes the program because she "gets to make things that are interesting." One of her favorite things to do is draw cartoon char-

At the same table, Emily Park, 6, was intent on finishing the drawing of her fish so she could paint it. She said the program is fun for her because she likes to draw. Her favorite thing to draw: horses.

Across from Emily, Joann Schmuck, 9, was putting the finishing touches on her painting – a purple and pink fish with big eyes that she described as a "cotton candy"

"I like drawing and painting because you can make whatever you want," said Joann.

Besides painting fish, students design colorful "Northern Lights" hats; transform plain T-shirts into oceans full of creatures; explore the art of decoupage, collage, and stained glass; sculpt clay polar bears and penguin reliefs; and build sand castle lighthouses.

Building confidence and igniting imaginations

Granger Principal Cheryl Salomão said the program complements her school's art curriculum. "Students have the opportunity to express themselves further artistically. Students also work with different mediums and create artistic keepsakes they will cherish for years to come."

Steiger said the classes are less formal and allow children to "play" with art, explore their creativity, and use additional art techniques. She added that it also builds confidence in children, which enables them to fully experience their creativity without

The program focuses on the overall learning experience rather than teaching a specific art skill. There are no lectures or art facts to remember. Instead, demonstrations are used to inspire ideas and to help children learn and create.

'We expose children to the world of art, while helping to ignite their imagination. We foster a relaxing and fun, non-competitive environment where there's no such thing as doing art the wrong way," said Steiger.

With a different activity each week, students not only learn about life in and around the North and South Pole, but they also learn fun facts about endangered species. Many of the art sessions include story books that often relate to the art projects. "It's like literacy education in disguise," said Steiger.

Garnering high marks from teachers and parents

According to Steiger, teachers and parents rate the program favorably. "Teachers see that our exciting, hands-on curriculum is based on an open-ended, explorative process that promotes learning skills through observation, memory and imagination."

"Parents like our programs because they see their children thriving. They see them excited about creating their art projects and proud of their endeavors. Their children are more confident and feel good about themselves," she added.

Steiger said the program challenges children to develop creative problem-solving and critical-thinking skills that will help them throughout their social, academic, and occupational futures.

She said this type of thinking can allow a



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

Ella Mickiewicz, 8, shows off a fish she's just painted during a weekly afterschool program at Granger Elementary School. Joann Schmuck, 9, (right) and Kayla Gauthier (second right) have also completed their paintings while Sarah Kriebel, 6, (left) and Neve Mickiewicz, 6, (second left) are still putting the finishing touches on theirs.



Jason Edwards, 9, proudly holds his finished artwork of a fish. He's one of 15 children attending an eightweek afterschool art program at **Granger Elementary School.**

child "to wow the crowd" at a science fair, help a teenager conquer a tricky SAT question, and provide an adult with skills needed to excel in fields like law, advertising, engineering, or medicine.

Steiger said art skills are an essential



Katie Lunden, 7, is all smiles as she shows off a painting she made of a fish during an afterschool art program at Granger Elementary School. The program complements what students learn in the school's art curriculum.

part of a great education because they help children make connections with the world outside their classroom. "When children learn art, they think, they discover, and they

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

Open Houses: Many colleges are hosting open houses for the next few months. Check the Counseling Center website for times and dates.

Visiting College Represen**tatives:** To meet with any of the following college or university representatives that will be visiting the school, sign up at least one day in advance in the Counseling Center: Dec. 3: 8 a.m., Bay Path College.

Seniors that applied Early Action or Early Decision or **before Nov. 16:** Please provide your counselor with a regularsized envelope for each school you applied early to so that an updated transcript can be mailed to them right away. The envelope must include one stamp, be addressed to each college and include you first and last name only in the left hand corner.

Night: Financial Aid Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Doors will open at 6 p.m. A representative from the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) will be present to explain the financial aid application process and to answer parent's questions. While this program is aimed at seniors, all parents are welcome.

College Applications: The deadline to submit all college applications to your counselor is Dec. 5.

CTEC (Career TEC) Open House: Nov. 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

School Committee Meeting

Roberta G. Doering School 68 Main Street Tuesday, Nov. 25 - 7 p.m.

- 1. Call to order
- 2. Moment of silence
- 3. Roll call of attendance
- 4. Regular meeting 7 p.m.
- 5. Citizen's speak time
- 6. Highlights on Education:
- a. Presentation of M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence to AHS seniors Lauren Hartmann and Jordan Reed
 - 7. Superintendent's Notes
- 8. Student Advisory Committee representative update
 - 9. Unfinished Business:
- a. SCR-14-31, Approval for Music Speaks to use the AJHS auditorium for a recital on Dec. 14, 2014 from noon to 5 p.m.
 - 10. Business meeting:
 - a. Routine Matters
 - 1) Approval of Minutes
 - 2) Calendar/Correspondence b. Warrants/Transfers
 - c. Reports:

- 1). Scheduled Reports:
- Personnel update (paper report)
- Home School update (paper report) • Financial update – R. Clickstein
- MCAS Scores Dr. LeClair
- 2). Subcommittee updates
- 11. New business:
- a. SCR-14-33, Designation of MASC as a representative for the purpose of selecting an arbitrator and receiving arbitration decisions
- b. SCR-14-34, Acceptance of a \$1,000.00 donation to the AJHS Special Education programs from Armor Fire Technologies, Inc.
 - 12. Policy Review:
- b. Policy JH-F, Notification of Unexcused Student Absences Request for Action Plan Meeting, 1st read-
- c. Policy IJOA-F, One-Day Field Trip Request Form, 1st reading
- d. Policy IJOA-F1, Overnight Field Trip Request Form, 1st reading
 - e. Policy ADDA, Background Checks, 1st reading f. Policy DJE, Bidding Requirements, 1st reading
- 13. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
- 14. Adjournment

Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, Nov. 21

THE WESTFIELD STATE UNIVER-SITY DANCE COMPANY will present "Dance the Night Away," a 90-minute performance, at 7:30 p.m. on Dever Stage. Tickets may be purchased at the door before the performances. General admission is \$5 and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 22

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 745 Main St., will host its annual Holly Wreath Bazaar, Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The day's offerings will include the Nutmeg Bakery and Clothesline Boutique as was well as a book shop, attic treasures, a young people's table, raffles and outside vendors. The Holly Wreath Café will be open for lunch.

A HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR sponsored by the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the senior center. Two floors of vendors will be there and Carol, the senior center chef, will be preparing her ever-popular soup and meatballs.

ST. JOHN'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the parish center, 833 Main St., Agawam. The bazaar will feature Christmas wreaths, decorations, a bake sale, candy booth and a jewelry booth. Snacks will be available for purchase

THE WESTFIELD STATE UNIVER-SITY DANCE COMPANY will present "Dance the Night Away," a 90-minute performance, at 1 p.m. on Dever Stage. Tickets may be purchased at the door before the performance. General admission is \$5 and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

UNITED SPRINGFIELD METHODIST CHURCH, 800 Amostown Road, will hold its annual Fall Vendor, Craft Fair and Pie Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair offers handmade and professionally crafted items, a variety of homemade pies for Thanksgiving and more. The church is handicapped accessible. Parking is free. For more information, call 413-788-0304.

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEP-ERD, 214 Elm St., West Springfield, will hold its annual Shepherd's Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring local vendors and crafters. Pies for Thanksgiving will also be available for purchase as well as a flea market and gifts for Christmas. For more information, call 413-734-1976.

Sunday, Nov. 23

AGAWAM GIRL SCOUT TROOP 11085 will hold a "Fill the Truck" event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the parking lot of Geissler's Supermarket, 830 Suffield St., Agawam. The public is invited to bring non-perishable food or empty bottles and cans. All proceeds and donations will benefit the Open Pantry as the girls work toward their Bronze award.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a "mini tour" at 1 p.m., led by Peter Benjamin, Wood Museum of Springfield History, highlighting "Row, Row, Row Your Boat: the Past and Future of Recreational Boating on the Connecticut River." The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

Thursday, Nov. 27

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD PARISH ASSOCIATION and the West Springfield Rotary will host the 33rd Annual Phil Coburn Community Thanksgiving Dinner from noon to 2 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church on Westfield Street. It is open to the public.

Sunday, Nov. 30

"A LITTLE BIT OF CHRISTMAS," a concert for all ages featuring vocalists from throughout the Pioneer Valley, will welcome the launch of the Advent season at Faith United Church, 52 Sumner Ave., Springfield at 4 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public with refreshments served following the concert. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Springfield Rescue Mission.

Monday, Dec. 1

THE AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY will host Suzanne Strempek-Shea, author of Make A Wish But Not for Money, at 7 p.m., as part of its continuing "AuthorTalk" series. Her book tells the story of an unemployed palm reader who plies her trade in a dying shopping mall. To register for this event, call 413-789-1550 or visit www.agawamlibrary. org. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERTS at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature the Epic Brass Quintet in a holiday program directed by Earl Raney, at 10:30 a.m. Free refreshments are provided after the performances. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield 01138.

Friday, Dec. 5

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUN-CIL'S APPLAUSE SERIES ends its 2014 season tonight at 7 p.m. when Dan Kane & Friends perform a concert of Christmas favorites and American standards at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

FITNESS FIRST HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo is required. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.

Saturday, Dec. 6

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY will host "Breakfast with Santa" with seatings at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in Scanlon Banquet Hall. Tickets are \$7 for children; \$9 for adults. Children 3 and under can attend for free, but will not receive a gift from Santa or a seat without a ticket. Tickets will be sold online atwww.westfield.ma.edu/tickets. Snow date, Sunday, Dec. 7.



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It's Open Enrollment time at the Massachusetts Health Connector. If you have health insurance through the Health Connector or the temporary MassHealth program, you must submit a new application to maintain coverage through the Commonwealth.

If you buy your own insurance, you can apply online to renew or get insurance for the first time. The Health Connector is the only place where you can get help paying for your health insurance, and is a great place to compare and choose health and dental plans from leading insurers.

Sign up online at **MAhealthconnector.org**, or call **1-877-MA-ENROLL**, or visit the website to find free help signing up from trained assisters around the state.

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